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MESSAGE

OF THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 5.—Following is the President's Message:

Congratulatory—Completion of Reconstruction.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

A year of peace and general prosperity to this nation has passed since the last assembling of Congress. We have, through a kind Providence, been blessed with abundant crops and been spared from complications and war with foreign nations. In our midst comparative harmony has been restored. It is to be regretted, however, that a free exercise of the elective franchise has been curtailed to citizens in exceptional cases, in several of the States lately in rebellion, and the verdict of the people has thereby been reversed. The States of Virginia, Mississippi and Texas have been restored to representation in our national councils. Georgia, the only State now without representation, may be confidently expected to take her place there also at the beginning of the new year, and then let no hope will be completed the work of reconstruction.

With an acquiescence on the part of the whole people in the national obligation to pay the public debt, created as the price of our Union, the pensions to our disabled soldiers and sailors and their widows and orphans, and in the changes to the Constitution which have been made necessary by a great rebellion, there is no reason why we should not advance in material prosperity and happiness as no other nation ever did after so protracted and devastating a war.

United States Protection Extended to Foreign Residents in Paris.

Soon after the existing war broke out in Europe, the protection of the United States Minister in Paris was invoked in favor of the North Germans domiciled in French territory. Instructions were issued to grant the protection. This has been followed by an extension of American protection to citizens of Saxony, Gotha, Hesse, and South Columbia, Portugal, Uraguay, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Chili, Paraguay, and Venezuela in Paris. The charge was an onerous one, requiring constant and severe labor as well as the exercise of much prudence and good judgment. It has been performed to the entire satisfaction of this government; and I am officially informed, also to the satisfaction of the government of North Germany.

Recognition of the French Republic.

As soon as I learned that a republic had been proclaimed at Paris, and that the people of France had rejected the late Imperial dynasty, the minister of the United States was directed by telegraph to recognize it, and tender my congratulations and those of the people of the United States. The re-establishment in France of a system of government disconnected with the hereditary functions of power, appeared to be a proper subject for the felicitation of Americans. Should the present struggle result in attempting to establish over the country forms of representative government, it will be a subject of still further satisfaction to our people. While we make no effort to impose our institution upon the inhabitants of other countries, we sympathize with our traditional neutrality in civil contests elsewhere, we cannot be indifferent to the spread of American principles, except in a great and highly civilized country like France.

Our Refusal to Interfere in the Struggle.

We were asked by the new government to use our good offices jointly with those of the European powers in the interest of peace. Answer was made that the established policy and the true interests of the United States forbade them to interfere with European questions jointly with European powers. I ascertained informally and unofficially that the government of North Germany was not ill-disposed to listen to such representations from any powers, and though earnestly wishing for a speedy end to the bloodshed of the belligerents, with all of whom the United States are on terms of friendship, I declined on the part of this government to take a step which could only result in injury to our true interests, with no hope of compensating for which our intervention was invoked. Should the time come when the mediation of the United States can hasten the return of peace by a single hour, that action will be heartily taken.

New Norwegian Legation.

I deemed it prudent, in view of the number of persons of Norwegian and French birth living in the United States, to issue, soon after official notice of a state of war existed between certain European belligerents, a proclamation defining the duties of the United States as a neutral, and the obligations of persons residing within the territory to observe their laws and the rights of nations. The proclamation was followed by orders to the diplomatic and consular officers of the United States, publishing the proclamation for their guidance, and calling their attention to the principles and obligations of the law of nations, and to the requirements of the statutes in such cases made and provided. It is gratifying to know that these orders and instructions have been observed with general fidelity by the officers of the United States.

The Cuban Insurrection.

It is not indeed certain that the condition of the insurrection in Cuba has materially changed since the close of the last session of Congress. In an early stage of the contest, the authorities of Spain inaugurated a system of arrests, seizures, of close confinement, of military trial and execution of persons suspected of complicity with the insurgents, and of summary embargo of their properties and requisitions of their revenues by executive warrant. Such proceedings, as far as they affected the persons or property of citizens of the United States, were in violation of the treaty of 1795 between the United States and Spain. Representations of injuries resulting to several persons claiming to be citizens of the United States, by reason of such violations, were made from time to time to this government. From April, 1869 to June last, the Spanish Minister at Washington did not deem it within the limited power to him in redressing such wrongs. That power was withdrawn, in his opinion, by the view, as it was said, of the favorable situation in which the island of Cuba then was, which, it was believed, would lead to revolution or suspension of the extraordinary and arbitrary measures exercised by the executive power in Cuba; and we were obliged to make our complaint at Madrid. In the meantime, the insurrection, now still pending there, the United States only claimed that for the persons and property of their citizens as by treaty should be respected in Cuba, and that as to the past a joint tribunal should be established for the investigation, with full jurisdiction over all such claims. Before such a tribunal the claimant would be required to prove his case. On the other hand, Spain would be at liberty to traverse every material fact, and thus complete equity would be done.

Successful Arbitration.

A case which at one time threatened seriously to affect the relations between the United States and Spain was already been disposed of in this way. The claim of Col. Loyd Aspinwall, for the illegal seizure and detention of his vessel, was referred to arbitration by mutual consent, and has resulted in an award to the United States for the owner of the same of nineteen thousand seven hundred and two dollars and fifty cents. This fair and long pending claim of like nature—that of the whaleship Canadian—has been disposed of by friendly arbitration during the present year. It was referred, by the joint consent of Great Britain and the United States, to the decision of Sir Edward Thornton, Her Britannic Majesty's minister at Washington, who selected Mr. Dunbrook, of Portland, Me., for the purpose of examining the voluminous mass of correspondence and testimony submitted by the two governments, and allowed to the United States the sum of one hundred thousand dollars in gold as indemnity for the claimants in gold, which has since been paid by the Secretary of the Treasury to the claimants.

The cases show that the mode which the United States have proposed to Spain for adjusting the pecuniary claims is fair and practicable, and may be agreed to by either nation without dishonor. It is to be hoped that the proposition first made may be acceded to by Spain without further delay. Should the pending negotiations finally adopt such a settlement, it will result in the money due by one to be promptly paid to the other. Congress and I will in due time be invited to such representations from any powers, and through

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1870.

THE ROMAN QUESTION IN AMERICA.

On last Sunday evening a protest by Dr. MANNING, Archbishop of Westminster, against the Italian occupation of Rome, was read in all the Catholic Churches under that dignitary's jurisdiction. It is affirmed that the occupation of the Holy City—

"Violates all the rights on which the sovereignty of States is based and all the laws by which the several possessions of the Church are granted."

The protest also says:

"It is enough to affirm that in the case of the violent deposition of the sovereign of Rome no cause exists. He holds a right of sovereignty not derived from Kings or peoples. His sovereignty is not at their disposal. It is not in their possession. He holds it in behalf of all nations and of the whole Christian world."

Thus it appears that the people who happen to be born under the temporal sway of the Pope are absolutely without remedy against any measure of oppression to which they may be subjected. No doubt, Dr. MANNING is fully competent by ability, intelligence and position to declare what is sound doctrine concerning the subject.

Besides, we know that, he merely reaffirms a doctrine which has all the weight and authority that can be derived from Catholic antiquity and consent. That Archbishop perceives in the overthrow of the Papal throne "the deadliest blow to all Christian kings." "The deposition of the Sovereign Pontiff," he says, "is not so much the deposition of a person as of a principle. It is Christian sovereignty, Christian legislation and Christian government that have been dethroned and dissolved in the person of PIUS the Ninth."

There can be no doubt that the views thus expressed by Dr. MANNING are held by a very large proportion of English, Irish, French and German Catholics in Europe. It would seem, likewise, that they command pretty general assent among the adherents of the same faith on this side of the Atlantic. For the same evening on which Dr. MANNING's protest was published in England, meetings, numerously attended, were held in New York, Philadelphia, and perhaps in other great American cities, for the purpose of denouncing the action of the Italian Government and of expressing sympathy for His Holiness in affliction. To the address to the Pope voted by the New York assembly some interest attaches, from the fact that it is believed to have been written by Mr. CHARLES O'CONNOR. This address "denounces the sacrilegious violence which has assaulted and brought under captivity the sacred persons" of His Holiness, "entitled by divine right to complete liberty in the exercise of his sublime office, and by the most perfect of human rights to civil princedom, a necessary safeguard and bulwark of that liberty." It also alleges "violation of a right which we, as Catholics, possess of being governed by a chief completely exempted from, and independent of all civil authority." The protest adopted by the Philadelphia meeting, a vast assembly of 30,000 men, was drawn up by Mr. JOSEPH R CHANDLER, and is of like tenor. It declares that "no ruler in the world holds his temporal authority by titles strong or more venerable than the Holy Father." At both these meetings, eloquent speeches were delivered in only one of which so far as reported, is there the slightest reference to the rights and liberties of the Italian people, or any mention of the familiarly known abuses and fearful oppression by which the sacerdotal government brought on its overthrow. As intimated, a single speaker did say that he thought the Roman *plebiscite* ought to be respected, but a sentiment so just and generous called forth no response from the audience. It was a mere eccentricity. A striking characteristic of the proceedings in both the cities was the contempt for facts apparent. This was especially manifest in the treatment meted out to VICTOR EMANUEL. Epithets, violent and coarse, were applied to him, and he was held responsible for measures, which, as all the world knows, he has been literally forced to adopt for the rescue of his crown and, in all likelihood, to save the life of the Pope. According to one orator, neither the English invasions of Ireland, nor the annexation of Silesia, nor the partition of Poland, nor the oppression of Greece, can compare in enormity with the recent acts of the King of Italy. The formal and repeated declaration by the Italian Government of its purpose to respect the independence of the Pope and to unite with other powers in placing it upon an inviolable foundation, was utterly ignored at these meetings, while, in flat contradiction of notorious facts, it was denied that any solid reasons exist why the Italians should desire to make Rome the center of their unity. One gentleman, somewhat distinguished as a scholar, even said "he did not know whether Rome had ever been the capital of Italy." The long domination of the Papal See was amply dwelt upon as a foundation for existing rights; but the fact, illustrated in thousands of pages of Catholic history, that for many centuries the Popes have been the source of the divisions and the miseries of Italy, was not alluded to.

The ground of general interest in these meetings is their evident purpose. The greater excommunication already issued against VICTOR EMANUEL and his supporters, is to be followed up and sustained by the common sentiment of the Catholic world. It is hoped to frighten and deter them from fulfilling their purpose by the pressure of universal odium and abhorrence. There may also be some hope of prompting foreign powers again to interpose in the regulation of Italian affairs. We may trust that such intervention will not be again allowed. It remains, however, to be seen.

WE are not surprised to hear that the proposition laid down in General GRANT's Message, that every voter has a "right to vote just once," and that to insure the free exercise of this right will be one of the objects to which the administration will devote itself, is warmly applauded by those who do not fear the right. It is unquestionably one of the most alarming features of our politics that in so many places real voters experience so much difficulty, while the machinery for double and quadruple voting works to a charm. The purity of the ballot-box, formerly a sentiment, because it was so seldom corrupted, has become a matter of practical and prime importance, since to corrupt it has come to be a deliberate purpose, in the success of which a great party, as the Democratic party in New York, manages to maintain a majority. We are not going to insist, however, that this description of corruption is confined to that State or city, or that Tammany Hall is the exclusive operator in the business. It is impossible to close one's eyes to the corruptions which surround and enter the ballot box in more than one city and State. The tactics invented by Tammany Hall, whereby the honest vote is lost in the flood of dishonest voting, and whereby leaders manipulate the ballots and returns after the people have gone through the form of voting, are not confined to New York city. It is the sort of thing the knowledge and practice of which are readily learned in different parts of the country, and out of it has grown an evil of fearful magnitude. General GRANT has done well to recognize it. To cure it will prove a great undertaking; but the declaration of his intention to do what is in his power to insure to every elector the privilege of voting "just once" will be applauded by all who estimate the right at its proper value. If, when every real voter has voted "just once," there were to be an honest canvass, the elections in many places would be affairs quite different from what they are. The subject is every way worthy of the serious attention of Congress.

THE PRESIDENT'S CIVIL SERVICE POLICY.

Now that we have a distinct and emphatic declaration from the President in favor of Civil Service Reform, it only rests with Congress to provide the necessary legislation to insure everything that is desired. In the meantime the President will be able to indicate by his own action the spirit of the laws which in his judgment are required.

That only persons thoroughly qualified, intellectually, morally and physically, shall fill the offices, and that the test shall be thoroughly and systematically applied, is the essence of Civil Service Reform, as it is popularly understood. The language of the Message is presumed to be the President's reply to those who have indulged in strictures on his course in connection with the resignation of Secretary Cox, so far as reform in the civil service was concerned. Secretary Cox applied the competitive test, and by doing so, and by acts looking to the same end, provoked opposition which led to his resignation, or, as some have said, virtual expulsion.

There is in the message nothing that will occasion so much gratification as the assurance that the President is to all intents and purposes in accord with Secretary Cox in regard to reform in the civil service. We have a right to infer, therefore, that Gen. GRANT, whenever it shall be in his power, will apply the test and promote the principle which the Secretary had so much at heart. Logically, we may expect to see, so far as such a thing is possible, Presidential appointments given only to the best qualified applicants, and that some systematic means will be employed to ascertain those qualifications—in other words, that the system of conferring appointments simply on the indorsement of members of Congress and in obedience of the demands of politicians, is at an end. Is this inferring too much? At least as much as this would seem to be authorized by the language of the message, taken in connection with the Cox correspondence, to which it bears an intimate relation. Its earnestness would seem to leave no doubt of what will be the course of the President hereafter. Let him cut up, root and branch, the present pernicious system of appointments on the indorsement of a Senator or Representative; and let him exact of political leaders when they present a favorite, something more than acertificate that he has been a good party worker. If GRANT will do this and whatever else in this direction lies in his power, Civil Service Reform will be more than half accomplished, and it will not matter much whether Congress acts or not. With the Message before us, may we not safely conclude that this the President is prepared to do?

AN important decision, in reference to the power of States to levy taxes on the transportation of freight and passengers through them, was recently delivered by Justice STRONG in the United States Circuit Court, District of Delaware. The Legislature of Delaware, on the 8th of April, 1869, passed an act imposing a tax of one-fourth of one per cent. upon the actual cash value of every share of the capital stock of every railroad and canal company incorporated by such State or doing business in it; in addition there was levied a tax of three per cent. upon the net earnings of such railroad or canal company, from all sources whatever; and a third tax of $100 per year for the use of every locomotive belonging in whole or in part to such company, of $25 for every passenger car, and of $10 for every freight car and truck. Mr. WILLIAM MINOT, Jr., of Massachusetts, a stockholder of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad, brought suit against that company to obtain an injunction to prevent the payment of each and all of these taxes. In regard to the first two, Justice STRONG refused the injunction, deciding the tax on capital stock and net earnings to be constitutional. He granted the injunction in regard to the tax upon the locomotives, passenger and freight cars and trucks, saying:

"The case, in any view of it, decides that a State cannot, directly or indirectly, tax persons for passing through or out of it. That is the ultimate fact in the case I have before me. Delaware statute of April 8 1869, does indirectly levy a tax upon both persons and property for transit through the State, into it and out of it. It is, therefore, in my opinion, so far in conflict with the Constitution of the United States."

GOVERNOR HOFFMAN is about the only confessed Democratic Presidential candidate at the present moment. His reliance is Tammany Hall, whose reliance is fraud and corruption. We ought to say, perhaps, that Erie FISK is his lieutenant—master would probably be more correct. And if there is in the country another individual whom an honest man would hesitate long about countenancing, it is this same FISK. Here we have the elements of the HOFFMAN broth which is being brewed in sundry kitchens established in different quarters of the country. The HOFFMAN scheme probably presumes more on the honesty and intelligence of the people than any ever devised even by Tammany Hall. This excess is probably due to the accession of FISK, whose Erie managementis on a par with the average morality and patriotism of the Hoffman school of politics. The elevation to which HOFFMAN owes his doubtful distinction has been through fraud and corruption, whereby the honest voters of the City of New York were completely overlaid by a vote manufactured by the tools employed by Tammany Hall. The proposition to transfer this description of tactics to the White House, and establish Tammany Hall and Erie there will probably at first not strike the Democracy of other States favorably; whether they can be whipped into acquiescence remains to be seen.

IT is surprising that Presidents, Secretaries and other public functionaries will commit their reports to the telegraph so long as it possibly can be avoided. There is no such thing as perfect accuracy, while the chances of blunders reversing the author's meaning or turning it into nonsense, are so numerous that it would seem that no one who has a proper idea of them will submit to have his composition butchered and himself made ridiculous in this way. We are not underrating the telegraph, nor do we deny the skill of its managers. We only write what is simply indisputable. It is wholly improbable that General GRANT's message has been printed without gross blunders in a single instance where it was telegraphed, and the same is true of other documents of any considerable length. We have compared several copies of the message in different cities, and found no two alike, while in some instances the meaning is totally at variance with the text. Useful and wonderful as is the telegraph, it is nevertheless true that no public man is safe when he commits to the wires a message or report, where perfect accuracy is essential. The wonder is that public functionaries will continue to run the risk of having their productions mutilated and themselves held responsible for sentiments that never entered their brains.

THE universal and hearty commendation bestowed on the Message by the Republican press must be highly gratifying to General GRANT, who will not fail to discover that all that the country asks of him is to be President himself, independent of cliques and combinations of every kind. The Message bears the evidence of being his own work, of having been struck out from his own mind, and with a purpose which gives to it the cast of decided individuality. Were the Message less GRANT and more somebody else, or several somebodys, it would be less satisfactory. And he may safely conclude that in proportion as his Administration, as Mr. LINCOLN was in the habit of saying, is "run by himself," advised only by men of elevated character, tested patriotism and acknowledged ability, and as little as possible by interested leaders, will he be certain of the support of his party and the approval of the country. If there have been moments when Republicans have not been pleased and the country doubted, it has been when this state of things was not fully realized; and if the experience of the past two years has taught anything it is that on nobody can the President rely so securely as himself.

GOVERNOR HAWLEY, of Connecticut, some time ago told General GRANT that he had read the PORTER letter, but could not credit its existence, for he could not think so poorly of human nature. It is to be observed that PORTER's is not an isolated case; he is not even as bad as others, who not only some time ago wrote and spoke badly of General GRANT, but kept it up, while all the time they are professing the greatest friendship at his face and are constantly receiving favors at his hands. Of this there need be no doubt.

THE resolution which Judge KELLY has prepared, and intends to press to a vote in the House of Representatives, will find extensive favor with the country, even though the House should not adopt it. The proposition to abolish as speedily as possible the entire internal revenue system, to which should be added the income tax, is a proposition to relieve the business of the country of a great weight, and throw off its greatest burthen. The President, in his message, refers hopefully to the early abolition of internal taxation, and Judge KELLY's resolution seems to be a practical application of the doctrine of the Message. It is as follows:

"*Resolved*, That the true principle of revenue reform points to the abolition of the internal revenue system, which was created as a war measure to provide for extraordinary expenses, and the continuance of which involves employment at the cost of millions of dollars annually of an army of assessors, collectors, supervisors, detectives, and other officers previously unknown, and requires the repeal at the earliest day consistent with the maintenance of the faith and credit of the Government of all stamps and other internal taxes, and that properly a reduction of the tax now laid on distilled spirits, tobacco and malt liquors, so long as the legitimate expenses of the Government require the collection of any sum for internal taxes."

ADMIRAL PORTER, on reflection, is not prepared to deny that he wrote the letter speaking contemptuously and unjustly of General GRANT, in 1865, which has just found its way into print. He presumes that he may have written it, but is unable to tell how he came to do such a thing; for, as far as he can now recollect, he entertained no such opinions concerning the General as are therein expressed. It seems to us that the Admiral would do better to avow squarely that he wrote the letter, and that it expressed the opinions he then entertained—opinions which he has since abandoned for those of quite a different character. But his explanation, or equivocation, equally with the letter itself, is characteristic, and, taken together or separately, they afford good grounds for permitting the writer to take an airing at sea, without the rank of admiral, if the country has any service of the kind for him. We don't think those who know both sides of PORTER are greatly astonished at the development, nor would they be, could these be others still.

LESS satisfactory reading than the dispatches concerning the war in France have for some time afforded it would, we suppose, be difficult to find. Military operations go on in several places and, we may believe that the work of organizing and arming troops proceeds among the French with a good deal of energy. We hear also of the activity of the *francs-tireurs*. But with the single exception of the repulse of VON DER TANN, some time ago, there has been nothing achieved by the French much to relieve the monotony of disaster, which the world associates with their arms. Recent German movements and French failures makes it quite certain that Paris may not look for relief from the Army of the Loire, or any other, and as surrender must be compelled by starvation before very long, it does not seem that the conclusion of hostilities can be far away. This is probably the hope of the Germans, and we hear of the accumulation of stores for the benefit of the hungry Parisians when they shall make up their minds to take food from their enemies.

THE Chicago *Republican* has a sensational Washington telegram that Hon. N. B JUDD has devised a plan of some interest to the nation at large, though having more to do with Illinois politicians. Chief Justice CHASE, it is said, is to resign and get ready to run for President in 1872; Senator TRUMBULL is to be appointed to succeed him, and the Illinois Legislature is to elect N. B. JUDD Senator in TRUMBULL's place. Then the representative at large from Illinois will be abolished, and Chicago will be given another Congressional district, from compensation to the riparian owners, and also voted 12 to 1 that Mr. Stevens had not been deprived of the right to pass to his lands.

A STRANGE story is told of a house not far from Morristown, N. J., once the abode of beauty, taste and luxury, the tenants being a rich New York merchant and his wife. The wife dying, the husband locked the door and departed forever, being the channels he has been despoiled of nearly everything. The insane idea of letting the house stand as a mausoleum to the departed wife has been fairly illustrated. A poor man has squatted, settled himself in a little gardener's house on the property, and ploughs the land and reaps his crops as if the fee simple vested in him. The owner has refused to notice him or to turn him out. Last spring the squatter put in

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 7, 1870.

The Senate Committees.

The Senate Committee to rearrange the the standing committees of that body just having finished that duty, the Senate was in session but a short time to-day. These committees will be announced to-morrow, when a report will be made to the caucus. The changes, as heretofore stated, will be mainly confined to those members who have expressed a desire to be relieved from some committees or to be placed upon others.

Retention of Commissioner Wilson.

The President was waited upon to-day by nearly the entire Pacific coast delegation in the interests of Commissioner Wilson, of the Land Office. Senators Nye, Stewart and Corbett were of the party. The President was requested not to remove Wilson, as it was rumored he was about to do. The President gave the delegation no particular satisfaction as to what his line of conduct in this respect would be, but informed them that there was no prospect of an immediate change in this quarter. It is said to be the intention of California to make a move to secure the final retention of Wilson in his position, at a future day.

Naval Officers Lobbying for Logan's Bill.

The naval staff corps are actively at work among their friends in Congress to insure the success of Logan's bill abolishing the rank of Admiral and Vice Admiral, deeming the present a good opportunity to have a quiet vengeance on Admiral Porter.

A Cable from the Pacific Coast to Asia.

Senator Conkling introduced to-day a bill to give the American and East India Telegraph Company the exclusive right for twenty years to lay a cable from our Pacific coast to Asia, with a proviso that the work shall be commenced in one year and finished in three. The Secretary of the Navy is authorized to detail one or more steam vessels to assist in surveying for and laying down the cable, and the military and naval forces are directed to extend to the enterprise their protection.

Financial Legislation.

The Committee on Finance and Currency met to-day and had a desultory talk about currency matters, specie payments, &c., but took no steps looking toward legislation. The prevailing sentiment among the members of the committee is adverse to any attempt at important legislation at this session. The course of the committee's business will be largely determined by the character of the message which may be referred to it, as its members do not show much disposition to originate new financial measures. At their next meeting the committee will consider the recommendations contained in the report of the Comptroller of the Currency.

The San Domingo Scheme.

The House committee on Foreign Affairs meets to-morrow morning to consider those portions of the President's message referred to it. In pursuance of the President's recommendation for the appointment of a commission to go to San Domingo and investigate the question of annexation, a bill has been prepared, which will be submitted to the committee, and probably reported favorably.

The Appropriations.

The Committee on Appropriations met today and apportioned among its members the work of examining and preparing the details of various appropriations, so as to be ready to begin work in earnest immediately after the holidays.

Movement against Sumner's Foreign Policy.

It is stated on good authority that an attempt will be made to change the complexion of the Committee on Foreign Relations by substituting Senator Conkling for Senator Patterson thereon. This movement has its origin in hostility to Senator Sumner's foreign policy on the part of certain Senators and the Administration. It does not appear that Mr. Patterson has consented to this arrangement, or will be consulted in regard thereto, and consequently a storm is predicted if the change shall be persisted in.

The Postal Bill.

The House worked away to-day for a while as in Committee of the Whole on the Postal bill reported at the last session. Mr. Hill, of New Jersey, endeavored to get letter postage reduced to two cents, but the House was strongly against him. The clause authorizing postmasters to detain and hold subject to the order of the Postmaster General circulars sent out to defraud the simplicity of their money in various illegitimate ways was stricken out, but the unlawfulness of using the mails for such purposes was affirmed, and a fine of from one hundred to five hundred dollars imposed as a penalty. Mr. Sargent, of California, attempted to have gift concerts stricken from the list of lawful enterprises, but was unsuccessful. The House adjourned pending a motion by Mr. Farnsworth, Chairman of the Committee on Postoffices, to substitute for the section on the franking privilege, now abolishing that privilege, and providing for supplying members of departments and Congress with a stamp for marking public documents and speeches, and one hundred dollars worth of letter postage; the amount of postage for documents and letters to be charged by the Postoffice Department and collected from the annual appropriation for incidental expenses. This provision is not a radical measure of retrenchment, but will enable the Postmaster General to report a smaller deficiency, perhaps none at all. It is an abolition of the franking privilege only in name.

A Mysterious Message.

Shortly before the adjournment of the House a message in writing was received from the President, which remained with its seal unbroken under the Speaker's table. What its contents are is a fruitless subject of conjecture.

Land Grabs.

There are on the table of the Speaker of the House twenty-six land grant bills and joint resolutions, all but one of which have come from the Senate. Twenty-three of these bills or measures pending in the Senate. All but five of these grants are for the benefit of railroads. The Pacific road call for twenty-six million acres, the rest for about twenty-two million.

No Nominations.

The President has not yet sent in any nominations. He is, perhaps, waiting for the reconstruction of the Senate Committees. His friends of Vaughn, the ex-Confederate officer appointed Governor of Utah, desire early action on his name, as it is supposed there will be some opposition to his confirmation.

THE MESSAGE ACROSS THE BORDER.

The Canadians Scoff at the President's Threats of Retaliation—Americans Free to Navigate the St. Lawrence.

TORONTO, ONT., December 6.—The papers this morning, commenting on the President's message, say in reference to the enforcement of Canadian rights in the Gulf of St. Lawrence that the President does not found his objections against the action of our government upon the seizure of vessels actually engaged in fishing within the forbidden boundaries, but on a searching examination of vessels suspected of design to violate the regulations of the Canadian Government. He states that while the Canadian act permits such seizures and examinations, the law has not yet been put in force, and no case received to impose action until an actual offense has been given. Whether such seizures and examinations the necessary police duty of our navy is a question for the government to consider. It need hardly, however, be said that these proceedings are necessary to driving out intruders from our waters, the law ought to be enforced, whatever objections may be made by the American Government. The threat of retaliation which the President holds out, that Canadian vessels will be refused admission to American ports and the bonded system, as it is called, under which Canadian merchandise passes through the United States will be suspended, will not have the slightest effect on preventing the assertion of the just rights of Canada in the waters of the gulf. The number of Canadian vessels entering American ports is quite insignificant. The stoppage of the bonding system might cause some inconvenience to individuals in Canada, but would enormously benefit other parties, and the chief injury would fall upon the American transportation lines. President Grant may try measures of coercion whenever he likes. He will not cause the people of Canada to abate their claims one jot or tittle. The President asserts the right of the United States to free navigation of the St. Lawrence. It is hardly worth while to dispute such a claim. Wanton rights the American people may possess in the navigation of the river, they certainly have none in the canals along its banks. Where ever a request has been made to permit the passage of an American vessel down the river it has always been granted, and the President can hardly allege therefore that the right of the United States, of which he makes so much, have been seriously injured by the denial of his claims. It is in coming up the river, we beg to inform His Excellency, that the trouble arises. Perhaps he has never made the trip from Kingston to Montreal. We assure him that without the use of our canals the Americans would obtain wonderfully little advantage from the free navigation of the St. Lawrence.

A BROKEN RAIL,

cident on the Connellsville Railroad —Eight Persons Seriously Injured— Names of the Sufferers.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WEST NEWTON, PA., December 1, 1870.

The express train on the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad, due in Pittsburgh at 10:10 A. M., met with an accident by the breaking of a rail, six miles east of this place, near Jacob's Creek Station, at 7:25 this morning. Three coaches and the baggage car were precipitated down an embankment fifteen feet, and eight persons badly, though not fatally, injured. Mr. Turner, conductor of the train, was rather seriously injured. The names of the others are Mr. Blackstone, an elderly gentleman, and Mr. Goldsmith, merchant tailor, of Connellsville; and Mrs. Lingo, of Uniontown, who were married this morning and took their bridal tour, and Rev. Smith, of the Episcopal Church of Uniontown, and two others, names unknown. As soon as the accident occurred, an engine was dispatched to West Newton and the services of Dr. B. H. Vankirk, surgeon for the road, procured. He went to the scene of the disaster, and did all in his power to relieve the sufferings of the injured. A train was immediately sent from Connellsville to the place of the accident, and the injured persons were taken to their respective homes.

THE TOBACCO TRADE.

Meeting of the National Tobacco Association at Richmond.

RICHMOND, VA., December 6.—The National Tobacco Association met here to-day, and passed a resolution declaring it to be the duty of Congress to relieve the tobacco trade from the unjust features of the law of July 20, 1868, requiring the payment of a second tax on tobacco, snuff and cigars, and to refund the tax upon all such tobacco on which the tax has been twice paid. It was the opinion of the President of the Assembly that the Committee of Ways and Means and the majority of the House of Representatives were favorable to the proposed relief. A resolution was also passed, declaring the provision of the law requiring dealers in leaf tobacco to keep a special book to record purchases and sales to be useless in detecting frauds, and urging its repeal, and another requesting the abolition of the system of special tax and license of retail dealers who sell cigars, snuff and tobacco, but who do not make it their whole business.

The Brentlinger Wife Murder Trial at Lima, O.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

LIMA, O., December 7, 1870.

The Brentlinger wife murder case attracted a large crowd to the court house to-day. Standing room was not possible. The court is still in session, and the excitement is unabated. The trial will last several days yet. The prisoner appears perfectly calm, and presents rather a fair appearance, with a cleanly shaven face. The time was wholly taken up by the examination of witnesses for the prosecution. They will probably get through this evening, and the defense will open to-morrow. Nothing was gleaned to-day that what has already been published. The jury in this case is a very intelligent one.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, December 7 1870.

In reply to Mr. Boutwell's argument against National banks paying interest on deposits, because it concentrates money in leading commercial cities, and fosters speculation, it is stated as a matter of fact, that money goes where it is due and where it is wanted, and that the general refusal on the part of the banks to pay interest on deposits fosters the formation of private banking houses who will pay such interest, and that the class of interest-bearing deposits there is neither the check of public opinion to control, nor the legal publicity of bank accounts to render reasonably secure. The depositor, as a rule, must choose between a bank which pays him no interest but publishes its accounts in detail, and a banking house which keeps its business private, but pays a fair rate of interest. The argument does not appear to us to favor Mr. Boutwell.

—Government bonds hold their steady condition. There is scarcely a fractional change from day to day:

Messrs. Ira B. McVay & Co. report the following quotations of Government bonds in New York to-day, as furnished them by Jay Cooke & Co., their correspondents:

	Morn.	Noon.	Close.
U. S. Bonds '81	113¾	113¾	113¾
U. S. Bonds '62	107	107	107
U. S. Bonds '64	106½	106½	106½
U. S. Bonds '65	106½	106½	106½
U. S. Bonds '65 new	106¼	106¼	106¼
U. S. Bonds '67	106¾	106¾	106¾
U. S. Bonds '68	106½	106½	106½
10-40s	105¾	105¾	105¾
Gold	110¾	110¾	110¾

James T. Brady & Co., corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street, quote United States securities in New York to-day as follows:

Gold	110¾
U. S. 6s, 1881	113¾
U. S. 5-20s, 1862	107
U. S. 5-20s, 1864	106½
U. S. 5-20s, 1865	106½
U. S. 5-20s, 1865, new	106¼
U. S. 5-20s, 1867	106¾
U. S. 5-20s, 1868	106½
U. S. 10-40s	105¾
5-20s, January and July, 1865	106
5-20s, January and July, 1867	106¾
5-20s, January and July, 1868	106½
Union Pacific Railroad, 1st, ex-div.	82
Central Pacific Railroad	92
Ohio and Mississippi Railroad	26½

The railway shares at the New York Stock Exchange appeared to have been at the mercy of the bears. To-day there was a general tumble.

—The following table, made up from dispatches received at J. W. Kennedy's Stock Rooms, Apollo building, No. 80 Fourth avenue, shows the prices of Railway Stocks, Gold, &c., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day:

December 7, 1870.	10:30 A. M.	11:30 A. M.	12:30 P. M.	1:30 P. M.	2:30 P. M.	3:30 P. M.
Gold	90¾	90¾	90¾	90¾	90¾	90¾
Sterling	84¼	84¼	84¼	84¼	84¼	84¼
Erie	24¾	24¾	24¾	24¾	24¾	24
Reading	102	102½	102¼	102¼	102¼	102¾
Fort Wayne		131¾	131¾	131½		
Mich. Cent.		130	130	130		
Lake Shore	92¾	92¾	92¾	92¾	92¾	92¾
Ill. Cent.	125	125	125	125	125	125
Chicago R.		102	105	103	105	105
C. & R. W.	80¾	80¾	80¾	80¾	80¾	79¾
Do pref'd	89¾	89¾	89¾	89¾	89¾	89¾
Rock Isl.	109½	109½	109½	109½	109½	109¾
S. Paul	84¾	84¾	84¾	84¾	84¾	84¾
Do pref'd	81	81	81	81	81	80¾
Wabash		47¾				
Do pref'd		94¾				
Fort Wayne	94¾	94¾	94¾	94¾	94¾	94¾
Ohio & M.	31¾	31	31	30¾	30¾	30¾
Ohio & Atl.		115¾		115¾		
Do pref'd		117¾		118		
N. J. Cent.		98¾		98¾		
N. Y. Cent.		108¾		108¾		
Hudson		97¾		97¾		
W. U. Tel.		44¾	44¾	44¾		44¾
Quicksilver		41				
Pacific Mail	42¾	42¾	43	43¾	43½	42¾
Adams Ex		65¾		65		
Wells-F.						
American		46¾		46¾		
U. S.		34¾		34¾		
Canada	110¾	110¾	110¾	110¾	110¾	110¾

A comparison between yesterday's and today's quotations shows the following changes:

	Tues.	Wed.	Adv.	Dec.
Central & Hudson	91¾	91¾	...	¼
N. Y. Central scrip	86	84¼	...	¾
Erie	24¾	24	...	¾
Reading	102	102¼	¼	...
Harlem	131½	131¾	¼	...
Illinois Central	130	130¼	¼	...
Lake Shore	92¾	92¾	...	¼
Ill. Cent.	125	125	...	...
Chicago R.	105	105	...	...
C. & R. W.	80¾	79¾	...	1
Do pref'd	89¾	89¾	...	¾
Rock Island	110¾	109¾	...	1
S. Paul	84¾	84¾	...	¼
Do pref'd	81	80¾	...	¼
Wabash		47¾	...	...
Do pref'd		94¾	...	...
Fort Wayne	94¾	94¾	...	¼
Ohio & M.	31¾	30¾	...	¾
Ohio & Atl.	115¾	115¾	...	...
Do pref'd	117¾	118	...	...
N. J. Cent.	98¾	98¾	...	...
N. Y. Cent.	108¾	108¾	...	...
Hudson	97¾	97¾	...	...
W. U. Tel.	44¾	44¾	¼	...
Quicksilver	41	41	...	...
Pacific Mail	42¾	43¾	¾	...
Adams Ex	65¾	65	...	¾
Wells-F.				
American	46¾	46¾	...	...
U. S.	34¾	34¾	...	...
Canada	110¾	110¾	...	...

—Messrs. Bowen & Fox, brokers and members of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, furnish the following quotations of the closing prices to-day of the most active stocks:

Pennsylvania Central	61¾
Philadelphia and Erie	29½
Lehigh Navigation	38¾
Catawissa preferred	37½
Oil Creek and Allegheny Railroad	46½
Lehigh Valley Railroad	57¾
North Pennsylvania Railroad	46
Camden and Amboy Railroad	117¾
Schuylkill Navigation	20¾
Reading	51¾

—The Philadelphia *Press* of yesterday says: The stock market opened with great excitement in Lehigh Navigation, which carried it to 34¾, at which point the advance was checked by the reports that the expected lease had been thrown overboard by the Lackawanna parties, and the price fell off. The rise is ridiculed, however, on renewed advices that the Lehigh Valley were in negotiation with the Navigation directors, and again touched 34¾. It is probable that there is some truth in these reports, but there are of so conflicting a character, and so uncertain in their origin, that we cannot vouch for them. Hestonville Railroad was also a feature, and rose to 16¾. Reading assumed its usual prominent place on the list, and fluctuated from 51 to 51¾. Lehigh Valley was a shade lower selling at 60. Oil Creek was in demand, at 46¾@46¾ on buyers' options. Pennsylvania sold largely at 61¾@62; Catawissa preferred at 37½; Camden and Amboy at 117¾; Little Schuylkill at 44¼; 20¾ was bid for Philadelphia and Erie. In the Second Board 50 for Minehill; 46 for North Pennsylvania; 28 for Elmira; 39 for the preferred; 40 for Northern Central.

—JAMES W. KENNEDY, Banker, No. 80 Fourth avenue, (Apollo Building), dealer in Government, State and Municipal Bonds; Railroad, Bank, Insurance and Miscellaneous Stocks. Represented daily at the New York Stock Exchange, and buys and sells stocks on a margin for the same commission and on the same terms as the New York brokers. Money to loan in sums of $500 and upwards on collateral or well indorsed promissory notes, or on mortgages on city or Allegheny county real estate.

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY, December 7, 1870.

REMARKS—Trade for the season may be considered moderately active and a fair amount of business was transacted. The weather has again changed and was unfavorable for out door transactions during the afternoon. Trade on the landing was dull; shippers are disposed to hold back until they can be assured that the Louisville and Portland canal has been opened. Produce—The supply was fully up with the demand; prices remain as last quoted. Flour—We can report a fair trade demand for local purposes; speculation has not been indulged in lately in bread stuffs. The mills are well prepared and are doing a good business with home dealers, and occasionally supplying other markets with a few hundred barrels.

The following are the receipts of the leading articles of produce for the past two weeks. They will be found useful for reference.

	Last week.	This week.	Total.
Flour, bbls	5,165	6,452	31,617
Apples, bbls	5,648	3,292	8,940
Cheese, boxs	2,572	2,734	5,306
Corn, sacks	1,554	3,960	5,514
Wheat, sacks	8,842	7,342	11,184
Barley, sacks	2,704	2,206	5,910
Rye, sacks	541	619	1,189
Oats, sacks	1,015	1,254	2,403
Butter, pkgs	220	290	510
Bulk meats, pieces	5,475	5,295	11,770
Bacon, tierces	153	163	316
Dried beef, tierces	76	76	76

The following are the wholesale prices unless otherwise noted:

ASHES—We have nothing new to note so far as relates to ashes. The demand is fair and sales were regular. Soda Ash—Refined $5½ cent, 9@10c ₰ ₵; common 4½ cent, 9½c ₰ lb. Pearls 8@9c ₰ lb. Potash 11½@12c and dull and not wanted.

BACON AND PROVISIONS—Market firm but not very active, as there is very little stock to operate with. There is a large amount of bulk meat in smoke house, and new bacon will soon be for sale. In the meantime we see no use in quoting old.

BEESWAX—The market was firm, with certain dealers asking an advance on quotations. Sales were reported at 36@36c per ₰.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—The prices of buckwheat flour are still a little steep—viz: $3 25@$ ₰ 2½ cwt., and $6 50@7 00 ₰ bbl.

BAR LEAD is selling in a regular way at 10@10½c ₰ lb.

BEANS—Regular sales made at $1 75@2 25 ₰ bush.

BUTTER—The receipts have increased, with a good supply on hand. Since our last 50 packages were received. The quotations are as follows: fair to medium 20@25c prime 28c; strictly choice 30@31c ₰ lb.

BROOM CORN—Market is well supplied, with regular sales at 5@6½c per ₰.

BAKING POWDER—Arctic, 1, ½ & ¼-lb cans, $1 75 ₰ dozen; ½-lb cans $2 25; 1 ₰ cans, $6 00 per dozen.

CHEESE—The market was a steady one with a fair enquiry for prime, but very little sale is made to a fair extent. Western Reserve at 13 @14c; factory 12½@13c; Goshen 15@16c; New York Goshen 16@17c ₰ lb.

COAL—Sales Eastern anthracite at $9 00@9 50 ton by the car load, delivered.

CANDLES—In good supply; sales of mold at 15½c; star 20c; stearine 18@19c ₰ lb.

CIDER—Fair to better demand and in a fair article fetches $6 ₰ bbl; prime is worth $7@8 ₰ bbl.

CONCENTRATED LYE—Sales Pennsylvania $9 00 ₰ case, other brands sold at $8 00@7 00 ₰ case.

CRANBERRIES—The bid stock was dull and neglected, while choice lots are wanted and a fair amount of attention. We can report sales of Sackett's beebe berries at $18 per barrel; other qualities $12@$15 00 per barrel.

CARBON OIL—In good supply; sales of standard brands in new barrels 20½@22c in a jobbing way 22@22½c ₰ small lots.

CORN MEAL—We note sales at 90@95c ₰ bushel.

DRIED FRUIT—Sales of new crop peaches at $3@$ 50 for quarters and 11½@12½c for halves. Apples 7@8c for sliced, and 9@9½c for cored ₰ lb.

DRESSED HOGS—The supply has fallen off, and prices now rule at 8½@8½c ₰ lb, as to size and quality.

EGGS—The market just now is unsettled; prices uncertain. Some dealers quote packed 28@29c; freshly fresh ones 31@33c.

FEATHERS—The demand is increasing, and we report sales as follows: prime mixed 62½c; currants 135c; layer raisins $4 50 ₰ box; Valencia raisins 16@18c a pound.

PEANUTS—The new crop is beginning to arrive; we are reported sales at 6@8c ₰ lb.

RAGS—Sold to a moderate extent at 4@4½c ₰ lb.

GRAIN—The market remains steady, with a fair inquiry for most descriptions. The receipts since our last were: Oats, 723 sks; rye, 125 sks; barley, 97 sacks; corn, 1,554 sacks, 830 sks. Wheat was steady. The mills have a fair supply on hand, but are still taking all good lots that come up to their standard at the following rates: white $1 30@1 35; red, do. Oats are steady at quotations. Several round lots have been sold to arrive, among them 2,000 bushels at 42c. Spot sales were made at 45c @c; first hands 47@48c store. Corn—Holders firm, prices tending upward; sales 1,200 bushels new from depot, 65@65c; sales 500 bushels old, 75@76c. Rye—Market quiet but unchanged; holders refuse to make any further concessions in order to effect sales. The nominal rates are 80@85c. Barley dull being still quoted at 85@90c for spring; 95c@$1 00 for fall.

HAY—The supply is fully up to the demand, sales baled, on wharf at $16@16, and from wagon at $16@18 ₰ ton.

HONEY—Regular sales at 30@35c ₰ lb.

HOPS—New crop bring 21@23c ₰ lb.

LIME—Sales of Cleveland white at $2 25 and Eastern $1 75 ₰ bbl.

LARD OIL—Extra No. 1 $1 15 ₰ gallon; No 2 do at 80c; Chicago winter strained $1 18; Cincinnati do $1 15 ₰ gallon; prices are firm.

LARD—In tierces, 15c; do in buckets 16c; cady 17@18c.

RAGS—In moderate supply, we can note sales in a regular way at 4@4½c ₰ lb.

MILL FEED—We note sales at the following figures: Bran $1 00@1 10; middlings $1 65@1 80; seconds $1 15@1 30 ₰ cwt.

HOMINY—Prices have declined, with sales reported at $5 00@6 00 ₰ bbl.

MOSSES—Sales made in a regular way at 32@35c ₰ lb.

FLOUR—We can report a continued fair demand for local purposes. The principal inquiry being for standard brands of western flours. The receipts since our last were 1,950 bbls. We are reported sales at the following rates: White wheat, fancy brands, at $7 10 in bbls, $6 85 in sacks; red winter, fancy brands, $6 75 in bbls, $6 50 in sks; sales of Dayton, Ohio brands, $7 00 in bbls, $6 75 in sks; old Minnesota, for bakers' use, $6 50 in bbls, $6 25 in sks. Rye flour—Sales (white wheat) bbls $7 40; sacks $7 10; Pan Handle (Southern amber) bbls $6 75; sacks $6 45; Morning Glory, bbls $6 45, sacks $6 15; Palmetto, bbls $6 00, sacks $6 25.

MOLASSES—The market continues steady, with a good local demand. Sugars are held firmly; quotations as follows:

COFFEE—Rio, choice, 26c; prime, 24½c; good, 24c; Java at 27@27½c ₰ lb.

SUGAR—Cubes, powdered and granulated 14½c; A coffee 13½c; B coffee 13½c; extra C 13½c; C 13½c; C yellow 12@13c; Porto Rico, 11c for fair and 12c for choice.

RAW SUGARS—Orleans 11@11½c; new, 12½c; Cuba 10½@11½c; Havana 11½@12c; Muscovado sugars 9½@11½c, being an advance of 1c ₰ lb.

SYRUPS—Havemeyer & Elder's, 85c; white honey drips, 80c; Lovering's 65c; silver drips, 70c; Golden 65c; amber and lower grades 40. 50 @60c ₰ gal.

MOLASSES—In fair supply; sales new crop New Orleans at 90c; old crop, 85c; rosin, No. 1, 6c.

SEEDS—Cloverseed nominal at $6 00@6 25. Timothy not quotable. Flaxseed sold in a regular way at $2 10@2 15.

SAPOLIO—In fair demand with regular sales at 50 ₰ ½ gross.

SALT—Sales by the car load at $1 60@1 65; from store at the usual advance.

SODA—Sales in kegs 6c; boxes, assorted papers 8c; sal soda 3½c ₰ lb.

TURNIPS—The market is very dull; we can report sales at 40@45c ₰ bush.

TALLOW—Sales of city rendered at 8½@8½c. Country—Prices have declined to 12c ₰ lb.

WOODENWARE—Following are wholesale prices per dozen: Pails, No. 2, $2 40; brush, $2 65, Tubs, No. 1, 3 hoops, $11 00; No. 2, 2 hoops, $9 50; No 3, 2 hoops, $8 50. Washboards $3 00.

PITTSBURGH OIL TRADE.

OFFICE OF PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, December 8, 1870.

REMARKS—The market was not an active one, dealers continuing apart in their views. As the result, we have but few sales to record, and these at prices which were current on the day previous.

CRUDE.

The market was devoid of animation, the nominal rates being: Spot 9@9½c; December 9 @9½c; sellers' option, from January to July, 9 @9½c; buyers' option same time 10@10½c.

SALES.

2,000 bbls spot.....9½c
2,000 bbls December.....9½c
2,000 bbls spot.....9½c

REFINED.

Market dull and unchanged in price, the nominal rates being: spot, 22½@22¾c; December 22½c; January and February 22¾c; April, May and June 23c; April to July 24c.

OIL CITY, December 7.—Market dull. Sales 200 city on spot at $1 85, 500 do do. at $1 85, 1,000 city make each January and February, 1871, at $1 80.

(By Western Union Telegraph.)

TITUSVILLE, December 7.—The *Herald* says: Upon upper road a little oil changed hands at $3 10, many holders not selling at any price. Upon lower creek $3 70 was bid regardless, and $3 40 for gravity oil.

SALES.

2,500 bbls upper creek.....$3 10
2,000 bbls Petroleum Center.....3 30
5,000 bbls lower creek.....3 30
2,000 bbls lower creek.....3 35
1,000 bbls lower creek, 46 gravity.....3 45

NEW YORK, December 7—Closing 6th:—Crude in bank—the demand is light, with supplies small lots at 12c. Refined is steady, but there is a very small inquiry; 2,000 bbls sold at 23½c, for Philadelphia delivery the trade are very slow and prices nominal. Refined 22½c for spot, and 22¾c for last half of the month; sales reported of 1,000 bbls at 22½c.

OIL CITY, December 7.—Market nominal at $3 30 for No. 1, and $3 15@3 20 for Oil City for light oil—46 gravity worth 10@15c more.

PHILADELPHIA, December 7.—Market weak at 22c for S. W.; 22½c for futures; January to March 22½c. Crude 10½c.

PETROLEUM CENTER, December 7.—Market quiet but very little doing; nominal at $3 10 on upper road.

PETROLEUM CENTER, December 7.—Market quiet; light oil $3 30@3 35; heavy gravity oil $3 40@3 45.

(By Pacific and Atlantic Telegraph.)

NEW YORK, December 7, 12.15 P. M.—There has been but little change in the market for either crude or refined for the past three or four days. Crude can still be bought at 12c in smaller lots; parties purchasing for shippers for small lots only can be found at this price; 11½c might be obtained for several thousand bbls for this and next month's delivery, but sellers refuse to accept this price, the refined market is relatively quiet and steady at 22½@23c, the latter price being generally asked and the former in a few instances taken in. Naphta can be bought at 9c, but there has been no direct sale for the past few days, some few on or two weeks ago. Benzine in small cargoes settled. No sales are yet reported.

NEW YORK, December 7, 3:30 P. M.—The market remains unchanged. Crude nominal at 12c, but a shade firmer. Refined 23¼@23¾c—a sale of 1,200 bbls, spot, being reported at 23¼c, and 1,000 bbls naptha at 9c; also, a sale of 2,500 bbls for Philadelphia delivery, at 23¼c.

PHILADELPHIA, December 7, 5:00 P. M.—Refined—December 22½c bid, 22¾c asked; January and February 22½c bid, 22¾c asked; January to March 23½c asked; March 23c bid. Crude 10½@11c. The market is dull.

PETROLEUM CENTER, December 7.—Market quiet and dull, with little or no disposition to operate; regardless and gravity oil is worth $3 40; no buyers.

TITUSVILLE, December 7.—Market firm but quiet at $3 30@3 35.

PLEASANTVILLE, December 7.—Market quiet and dull at $2 80.

IRON MARKETS.

NEW YORK.

November 30.—The market for Scotch pig remains very quiet, but, as the supply is still light, prices are not affected. The stock of iron here except the Summerlee, noted in our last, for which there is little inquiry, but holders are not inclined to make any concession; 200 tons last week sold at private terms. American remains inactive and irregular; we quote, nominally, No 1 at $31, and No 2 at $30. There has been quite an active demand for new rails, and we notice sales of 10,000 tons American and 1,000 tons English, winter shipment, on terms not transpired; we quote English at $57@59, gold, and American $70@71 currency, at the works in Pennsylvania. Bar from store is depressed. We quote refined $77 50@82 50 ₰ ton, the latter for ¾ inch. Scrolls and ovals and flats nominal $97 50@125 00, hand $92 50; horse shoe $105; rods, 1 inch, $82 50@$100; hoops $100 00@110 00, and nail rod 65c cash. A sale of 50 packs Russia sheet was made at 10½c gold.—*Shipping List.*

November 30—In pig iron there is very little movement, but prices are without material change. No. 1 sold at $31@32; No. 2 is quoted at $30@31; Scotch and Welsh are $31@32 for forge, and nails are neglected. Scotch pig sells at $33 ₰ ton.—*North American.*

IRONTON.

December 1.—Metal producers are not holding their own now, as rates are seriously depressed and orders slack. A disposition holds otherwise noted:

ASHES—We have nothing new to note so far as relates to ashes. The demand is fair and sales were regular. Soda Ash—Refined $5½ cent, 9@10c ₰ ₵; common 4½ cent, 9½c ₰ lb. Pearls 8@9c ₰ lb. Potash 11½@12c and dull and not wanted.

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BROOM CORN—Market is well supplied, with regular sales at 5@6½c per ₰.

BAKING POWDER—Arctic, 1, ½ & ¼-lb cans, $1 75 ₰ dozen; ½-lb cans $2 25; 1 ₰ cans, $6 00 per dozen.

CHEESE—The market was a steady one with a fair enquiry for prime, but very little sale is made to a fair extent. Western Reserve at 13 @14c; factory 12½@13c; Goshen 15@16c; New York Goshen 16@17c ₰ lb.

COAL—Sales Eastern anthracite at $9 00@9 50 ton by the car load, delivered.

CANDLES—In good supply; sales of mold at 15½c; star 20c; stearine 18@19c ₰ lb.

CIDER—Fair to better demand and in a fair article fetches $6 ₰ bbl; prime is worth $7@8 ₰ bbl.

CONCENTRATED LYE—Sales Pennsylvania $9 00 ₰ case, other brands sold at $8 00@7 00 ₰ case.

CRANBERRIES—The bid stock was dull and neglected, while choice lots are wanted and a fair amount of attention. We can report sales of Sackett's beebe berries at $18 per barrel; other qualities $12@$15 00 per barrel.

CARBON OIL—In good supply; sales of standard brands in new barrels 20½@22c in a jobbing way 22@22½c ₰ small lots.

CORN MEAL—We note sales at 90@95c ₰ bushel.

DRIED FRUIT—Sales of new crop peaches at $3@$ 50 for quarters and 11½@12½c for halves. Apples 7@8c for sliced, and 9@9½c for cored ₰ lb.

DRESSED HOGS—The supply has fallen off, and prices now rule at 8½@8½c ₰ lb, as to size and quality.

EGGS—The market just now is unsettled; prices uncertain. Some dealers quote packed 28@29c; freshly fresh ones 31@33c.

FEATHERS—The demand is increasing, and we report sales as follows: prime mixed 62½c; currants 135c; layer raisins $4 50 ₰ box; Valencia raisins 16@18c a pound.

PEANUTS—The new crop is beginning to arrive; we are reported sales at 6@8c ₰ lb.

RAGS—Sold to a moderate extent at 4@4½c ₰ lb.

GRAIN—The market remains steady, with a fair inquiry for most descriptions. The receipts since our last were: Oats, 723 sks; rye, 125 sks; barley, 97 sacks; corn, 1,554 sacks, 830 sks. Wheat was steady. The mills have a fair supply on hand, but are still taking all good lots that come up to their standard at the following rates: white $1 30@1 35; red, do. Oats are steady at quotations. Several round lots have been sold to arrive, among them 2,000 bushels at 42c. Spot sales were made at 45c @c; first hands 47@48c store. Corn—Holders firm, prices tending upward; sales 1,200 bushels new from depot, 65@65c; sales 500 bushels old, 75@76c. Rye—Market quiet but unchanged; holders refuse to make any further concessions in order to effect sales. The nominal rates are 80@85c. Barley dull being still quoted at 85@90c for spring; 95c@$1 00 for fall.

HAY—The supply is fully up to the demand, sales baled, on wharf at $16@16, and from wagon at $16@18 ₰ ton.

HONEY—Regular sales at 30@35c ₰ lb.

HOPS—New crop bring 21@23c ₰ lb.

LIME—Sales of Cleveland white at $2 25 and Eastern $1 75 ₰ bbl.

LARD OIL—Extra No. 1 $1 15 ₰ gallon; No 2 do at 80c; Chicago winter strained $1 18; Cincinnati do $1 15 ₰ gallon; prices are firm.

LARD—In tierces, 15c; do in buckets 16c; cady 17@18c.

RAGS—In moderate supply, we can note sales in a regular way at 4@4½c ₰ lb.

MILL FEED—We note sales at the following figures: Bran $1 00@1 10; middlings $1 65@1 80; seconds $1 15@1 30 ₰ cwt.

HOMINY—Prices have declined, with sales reported at $5 00@6 00 ₰ bbl.

MOSSES—Sales made in a regular way at 32@35c ₰ lb.

FLOUR—We can report a continued fair demand for local purposes. The principal inquiry being for standard

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10 1870.

TERMS:

One copy, per year.....$2 00
In clubs of twenty, per year.....1 50
One copy gratis to the getter-up of the club.

GENERAL GRANT'S MESSAGE.

While there is nothing either strained or sensational in the Message of Gen. GRANT to Congress on Monday, it is a document far from being tame or uninteresting.

On the Alabama claims it will disappoint those who looked for something sharp set and startling. The President sensibly recommends the appointment of a commission to ascertain the amount of the claims, with a view to the extinguishment of individual interests, so that the government will have the exclusive control of the whole question, on which it will be prepared to act whenever England feels disposed. This is a fair way to dispose of the question so far as our citizens who suffered from the *Alabama* are concerned; and if adopted will leave the Government to manage the question without embarrassment. It is just to our citizens that they should be paid, and England is understood to be ready to pay them: but there are other points to be settled, which, unless some such course as is recommended by General GRANT be adopted, will postpone the payment of the claims. Their assumption of them by our government is therefore recommended.

The recommendation of the acquisition of St. Domingo is renewed and the policy of the measure defended with several reasons, which if not conclusive must be admitted to be not without strength.

We were right in predicting that the message would be unreserved in its recommendation of the reform in the civil service. Not only to the tenure of office but the manner of making appointments General GRANT would have the reform extended, and he would have it thorough, because in nothing else is reform more needed. It remains for Congress to do the work. General GRANT has simply but emphatically expressed the earnest wish of the nation, and the matter is now with Congress, and it will scarcely dare to decline to do its duty.

The remarks of the President on the tariff question is not likely to prove satisfactory to the Revenue Reformers, to whom, in one sense, they appear to have been directed. It will be observed that he recommends that, as soon as possible, all duties be taken from tea, coffee and other articles which we do not produce, but which are of universal consumption. He favors the policy of a tariff for revenue, with such protection as will give good employment to labor, in contrast with the systems of the old world.

The hopeful and even cheerful tone of this portion of the message is a noticeable feature of the document, and will be received with no little satisfaction and exert a beneficial influence at home and abroad.

The message is likely to command an attentive reading from beginning to end, and strengthen the President and his administration with the country, and, we trust, with Congress.

"OUR INFANT MANUFACTURES."

That effrontery of antagonism which concentrates itself in sneers when arguments fail, is a salient belonging of the opponents of protection. But a contemptuous curl of the lip, although sometimes a very convenient subterfuge behind which to conceal baffled opposition, is wofully lacking in hard-hitting directness. Still, scorn is regarded by some persons, if not exactly as logic, as something co-ordinated with it—as evidence of a comprehensive knowledge of the worthlessness of the object at which it is aimed. This fact makes it occasionally worth while to treat a sneer as ratiocination, and to do away with its effects by refutation. For this reason alone we now permit ourselves to let loose a volley of countervailing proof against the stereotyped sneer of the free traders at "our infant manufactures."

These impatient reformers are perpetually representing our home industries as so many "infants" that never grow to vigorous youth or mature manhood, remaining always helpless and requiring the fostering hand of protection. This view carries the implication that our national surroundings are such as to preclude the building up of manufacturing enterprises that can be successfully maintained without the aid of friendly legislation—a proposition at variance with known facts. Despite the fluctuating course of Congressional action on the tariff, as the Government fell into different hands, America to-day produces a number of articles which not only engross the home market, but which find no competitors abroad, either as regards price or quality. Who, for example, ever thinks of buying a foreign-made chopping ax, or who would be able to do so, were he to desire it ever so much? Yet many are living who can remember when this widely used and indispensable implement was invariably an import, much greater in cost and poorer in make than now. So of shovels, locks, hinges, and a variety of other commodities.

In this controversy between sneer and fact, we have the best of Democratic, that is, free trade, testimony on our side—not merely the testimony of personal opinion, but the higher and better testimony of official documents. Thus, in the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, on the state of the finances, for the year ending June 30, 1855—a report made by JAMES GUTHRIE when FRANKLIN PIERCE was President—we find the following language, which we reproduce in its published sequence, without omitting or interpolating a word:

> "Let it be considered that we manufacture all our furniture, all our carriages, wagons, steam engines, machinery for our factories and machine-shops, most of our leather and shoes, boots, hats, door-locks and bolts of all descriptions, bells, balances, buckles, brads, wood-saws, horse-cards, castors, curtain-pins, curtain-bands, metal cocks, metal screws, currycombs, coal hods, candlesticks, gas-fittings and burners, coffee-mills, cauldrons, heavy edge-tools, hay and manure forks, gimlets, hat and clothes wardrobe hooks, harrows of all kinds, hoes, hollow-ware, planes, plows, sad-irons, tailors' irons, door-knobs, steel-yards, knives and forks, locks of all kinds, iron latches, lines, lanterns, lamps, jewsharps, cut nails, wood nails, pins, pumps, punches, pokers, sand papers rulers, iron and copper rivets, ropes, rakes, oil-stones, wrought iron anikes, second-sash door springs, window springs, steelyards, scales of all descriptions, steel and bronze screws, hammers of all descriptions, spoons of all descriptions, thermometers, tacks, vices of all descriptions, axes, wrenches of all descriptions, iron, brass, and copper wire, with a long list of other articles, to the exclusion of the like articles from other countries."

Are these the *infant* manufactures at which free traders delight to sneer? Is there nothing to be proud of in a national sense in this liberal list of established industries? Is it so lacking in all suggestion of independence, strength, safety, plenty, progress and prosperity, that it is a fit subject for jest and ridicule, or for contempt and scorn? Is any one of the articles above enumerated higher now in price, on account of protection accorded to it in past laws, than it otherwise would have been? Rather, has not each and every one of them suffered a diminution of cost to the consumers, with a steady movement in the direction of cheapness? From first to last has not there been, in every instance, an uninterrupted tendency to approach in the marketable values of the raw material and its finished product? Is not each of these commodities, while lower in money price, of far better quality than formerly? In many cases, has not beauty of design been added to the reduction of cost, excellence of workmanship and durability of use? Overwhelmed by such cogent questions, free traders stand dumbfounded, and find no better refuge than a sneer.

But there are other powerful considerations quite as remarkable and important. How many men, women and children have found employment and support in this country in the manufacture of this long list of articles, not for a single twelve-month, but for an extended series of years? How many barrels of flour, bushels of potatoes, pounds of meat, quintals of fish, gallons of molasses, wagon-loads of vegetables, and tons of coal have this multitude of laborers consumed during that stretch of time? What would have been the effect upon the producers of those necessaries of life, had those mechanics, operatives and factory girls, instead of earning a subsistence in the ways they did, been forced to become like producers, competing with the farmer in cultivating the soil, competing with the sailor in his piscatorial search, competing with the miner in delving for fuel? Between persons producing the same things, there can be no exchange of commodities; hence there must have ensued a speedy lapse into that lethargy of trade, of commerce, of material development, of local improvement, of intellectual progress, which so conspicuously marks a community almost exclusively agricultural. Wages would have fallen, bringing in its train a restricted, languid, doubtful, capricious market for labor. This condition of affairs becoming known in Europe, would have caused a speedy cessation of that vast tide of emigration to our shores which has proved such a powerful factor in the multiplication of our national growth and prosperity: for America would then have been deprived of that decided predominance of attractions and advantages which induces the emigrant to abandon the land of his nativity for this. With diminished population, the area of the Union would have longer remained thinly settled, and the public domain have very slowly developed into new States. So we might go on enumerating the necessarily evil consequences which would have resulted from the absence of that diversified industry the above list of home manufactures shows we possessed. If such evidences justify free traders in sneering at the protective policy as a device of the speculating, grasping few to enrich themselves at the expense of the simple, plodding, credulous many, by means wholly foreign to the legitimate sphere of government, then the sooner these visionary economists have more abundant reason to curl their lips in contempt, the better will it be for the interests of our people, and for the lasting benefit of generations to come.

A fluctuating application of the principles of protection having succeeded, fifteen years ago, in naturalizing upon our soil such a multitude of industrial pursuits, all progressive in character, how much augmented must be their number at the present time. Had there been a steady adherence to these principles by Government, thus saving community from shocks and revulsions brought on by legislation, manufacturing enterprise would not have been so much the foot-ball of an experiment in this country, and material development and commercial independence would have surmounted many obstacles which remain to be overcome. To whatever extent manufactures may be in their infancy, to the same extent does responsibility for such condition rest with the free-traders; for it is by that delay or prevent the birth of manufactures on American soil, and then, with a convenient sneer, heap the whole blame upon the shoulders of the protectionists.

GENERAL GRANT AND PENNSYLVANIA.

We are assured from Washington that General GRANT does not conceal his desire to bring Pennsylvania into accord with his administration. This should not be a difficult thing to accomplish. When General GRANT was at the head of the armies of the country he knew how important it was, in order to insure confidence in himself and at the same time keep up the *esprit de corps* of soldiers, that they should have for their immediate commanders officers in whose bravery, skill and fidelity they could confide. Nothing ruined a corps so quickly as a commander in whom the men did not recognize these qualities. The rule holds good in regard to party and public affairs; and we are free to confess that whatever of estrangement exists between the Republicans of Pennsylvania and the administration is the result of disregarding it. It is not to be disguised that General GRANT made a mistake in committing himself, even for the moment, to a faction in this State, whose leader is odious to the great body of the thinking, conscientious members of the party. As good men as this President have before now made similar mistakes, which they required no becoming convinced. We are not, therefore, surprised to hear that General GRANT has recently confidentially conferred with several prominent Pennsylvanians as to the best means of repairing these mistakes and disengaging his administration from the entanglements in which for the moment it has become involved. We have never doubted that the clear judgment of General GRANT would lead him to this,—and here let us say that it is on his own judgment that the country would prefer to have him rely, greatly in preference to the counsels of interested leaders of factions. We think it will be found that General GRANT'S extraordinary success is due mainly to the quality of self-reliance, and it is only when he has not displayed it that he has failed. We believe it to be a fact that the country would accept with great satisfaction the assurance that as a Republican President, he will in future act from his own views of duty and policy, instructed only by the intelligent, conscientious and disinterested sentiment which always exists, is not difficult to find out, and will ever prove a safe alliance. That such will be his course in future we have reason to believe,—and it is not improbable that, as evidence of this, will be the early announcement that a Pennsylvanian has been brought into the Cabinet, whose appointment will materially assist in bringing the Republicans of the State into full accord with the administration.

MALEVOLENT NEUTRALITY.

Our German fellow-citizens are again indignant concerning the reported sale of arms and munitions of war to France by the Government of the United States. In the *Freiheits Freund* of Thursday there is a long and able article on the subject, which, we doubt not, accurately expresses the feelings of grief and resentment generally excited by the traffic among German-Americans. It is alleged that the sale suspended for a while has been resumed, in spite of General GRANT'S promise, and is now carried on with renewed zeal and energy. Though it is impossible to read our contemporary's eloquent and cogent statement of the case without some sympathy, it appears to us that, while doing more than justice to one side of the subject, he does less than justice to the other.

The question involved is undoubtedly more complicated than he represents it, and has aspects at which he never casts even a glance. As the *Freund* informs its readers, those great masters of International law—HEFTER, of Berlin, and BLUNTSCHLI, of Heidelberg—allow the sale of arms, munitions and other material of war, on neutral ground as an act of commercial freedom. In regard to that point there is, we may say, no difference of opinion among writers recognized as authorities. If such is the law of nations, not only may no fault be found with private American traders for selling arms to the French, but the American Government can not interfere with the traffic, without a violation of the obligation which as a neutral it owes to the French nation. To prevent the trade would be to exercise special benevolence towards the Germans and thus aid them in their war with the French. With the fact that the Germans do not need our arms, and hence do not ask for them, the American government has nothing to do. If the traffic in arms on neutral ground is to be abolished, as we think it perhaps ought to be, the abrogation must be the result of conference and agreement among the nations, and the United States government, as the law now stands, may not interfere to hinder either of the actual belligerents from procuring weapons in this country. Hence the *Freund* is unjust and speaks not to the purpose when he represents the American government as appealing to bad laws to palliate the evasion of international determinations. It so happens that no such conflict in this country is possible, and therefore no appeal of the sort is needed. Until lately the case was different in England.

With reference to the connection or alleged connection of the government with the traffic, we suspect that the American Germans, under the influence of a very natural and becoming sympathy for Fatherland, fail to make sufficient allowance. Perhaps they fail to recollect that the Washington authorities feel or ought to feel absolutely neutral in respect to the belligerents. They must be assumed to be indifferent whether the Germans or the French come victorious out of the struggle. Benevolent to both, they are partial to neither. Now it is well known that since a short time after our civil war, they have been trying to get rid of the old-fashioned government arms. Often before and at the outbreak of the Franco-German war, and since, sales to private parties have been taking place as opportunities have been offered. If the Germans had needed the article, they would eagerly have embraced the chances of an open market, just as the French have done, and nothing would have been said about violation of neutral obligations in the sale. But they were well provided with the murderous utensils, through their admirable foresight, while the French found themselves compelled to purchase. Is it not obvious that, if on discovering that the French wanted arms while the Germans did not, the American Government had suddenly resolved to suspend the work of emptying its arsenals until the close of the war, it would have performed an act of "benevolent neutrality" towards Germany, while its treatment of France would have been justly regarded as unfriendly in the extreme? If, instead of merely suspending the sales, the War Department, while allowing private traders to deal with the agents of Turkey, Egypt and so forth, had expressly excluded France from the privilege of purchase, such discrimination would have seemed an act of positive hostility, which would have called forth the indignation of the world.

Before closing our remarks on the *Freund's* article, we must say that the writer makes quite too much out of General SHERMAN'S mention of the sale of weapons. He so far forgets reason and fairness as to represent the General as *rejoicing* in the hostile complications of Europe because they enable the American Government to dispose of its superfluous and antiquated arms and cartridges. And, then inferring that a great majority of Americans participate in the General's gratification, our contemporary is horrified at the immorality of the nation. In a less excited state of the sensibilities, the *Freund* would probably have seen less to shock him in General SHERMAN'S utilitarian view of foreign wars. It is, however, strange that he is ignorant, at least seems ignorant of the fact that the most enlightened war ministers in Europe have sometimes authorized the sale of weapons to foreigners. Even German governments are believed to have thus favored the United States in a memorable instance, without suspecting that they were doing anything amiss. Doubtless both parties were gratified in the transaction, and we are not aware that anybody was horrified at its immorality. The millenium is not yet come.

MISDIRECTED ENMITY.

From the tenor of some of the cable dispatches we might infer the unsoundness of the pacific conclusion generally accepted several days ago, and suppose that the agitation started by Prince GORTSCHAKOFF'S note may still end in war. The truth is that to many on the continent of Europe nothing would be so gratifying as to see England involved in war to her disadvantage; or else avoiding war to her manifest humiliation. With such unfriendly wishes concerning England very many in this country fully sympathize. The fact is not strange, but perfectly natural. Among the considerations which made the policy of the English toward this country in our civil war appear foolish, not the least important was the certainty that one of its effects would be to alienate permanently, or, at any rate, for many years, the good will of a great nation whose moral support they might before long need. Allied to them by blood and by popular institutions, Americans were so closely connected with the English, so much accustomed to look up to them, admire them and desire their favorable opinion, that only persistent and apparently wanton ill-usage and insult proved sufficient to sever the bonds. The American feeling of dependence was so strong, the American recognition of English greatness and worth was so spontaneous and unequivocal, that even contempt on their side served mainly as an incentive to honorable endeavor on ours. By well doing we hoped to change contempt into respect, disapproval into admiration. Those who may think this statement too strong will not affirm that it is wholly groundless. The nation may have needed to be emancipated from a sentiment of deference towards the mother country so strong and deep as to interfere with its own best development. It cannot, however, but be regarded as a misfortune that through the insults and injuries of England, we have not merely been emancipated from her influence, but placed among her enemies. It can hardly, we think, be doubted that this is at present our position. True, there is no clamor in favor of going to war with her, and General BUTLER'S amiable suggestions and disinterested labors in that direction have been received with a degree of disapproval creditable to the good sense and intelligence of the people. A nation whose members form its soldiery and do their own fighting, is not likely to engage in hostilities for any other than the most substantial reasons. The American people know the horrors and fossess of war by experience, and have therefore outgrown the temper from which Democratic politicians used to draw such terrible and ridiculous threats. At the same time we believe that a war with England would be more popular than a war with any other country in the world. So much is apparent from the spirit with which the possibility of such a conflict is generally spoken of.

The measure of unfriendliness to England thus indicated, is perhaps no greater than she has deserved; it is certainly not unnatural that we should wish to see JOHN BULL decently chastised by ourselves. Of course we should know exactly when to cease "laying on" as having punished him just enough to secure contrition for the past and security for the future. The anti-English feeling which appears to us unbecoming and unworthy of the American character is manifested in a different direction. We refer to such displays as the general gratification with which BISMARCK'S arrogant bearing towards the English Government has been received in this country and the evident pleasure with which many Americans contemplate the probability of the defeat or humiliation of England by Russia. In the former case they quite forgot or overlooked the fact that the English were rebuked for maintaining principles for which Americans have long contended, while in the latter case they forget or ignore the fact that Russia is a barbarous despotism and England almost the only free government in the old world. Though we sympathize with the Germans in their present war, we may not neglect to distinguish between them and their rulers. For many centuries the Germans have been fighting the battles of freedom of thought with almost uniformly victorious results. Thus among them liberty in all directions has been advanced. Much is still lacking to make them a perfectly free people, but there can hardly be a reasonable doubt, that in consequence of German unity, and as a result of the self-respect, self-assertion and consciousness of popular strength developed by the present struggle, German institutions, though they may remain monarchical, will soon be as liberal as they ought to be. But if this shall be the outcome of the war, the happy consummation will not owe anything to the liberal tendencies of either BISMARCK or his master, or perhaps any of the aristocrats who form the present Prussian government. They hate England for her freedom as well as for her pride, and they love America just as little. As for Russia, she is our ally and her CZAR has done us a good turn. But it will be an evil day for Europe when he shall be able to degrade England, and an evil day for India when he shall deprive her of its rule. The day we believe is still far away when either of these events is to take place. It is surprising that there are Americans who long for the time, and who would be pleased to see their Government help on its coming. Such an alliance as that between America and Russia for such a purpose would remind the cynical part of the world of the coalition between BLIPIL and BLACK GEORGE, in Fielding's novel.

NAMES AND THINGS.

The English language has gathered its multitudinous vocabulary from a variety of sources, and is peculiarly rich in power of expression. It can drop the honeyed words of peace and gentleness, and it can vivify with its withering, scathing, burning, blasting curse. It can embody in numberless forms the most delicate gradations of meaning. The same thing often has a great variety of names, suited to all manner of surrounding circumstances. For example:

A bank cashier, dissatisfied with his pecuniary condition, and itching for the sudden acquisition of riches, abstracts large sums belonging to the institution, which he employs in gambling in gold and stocks. This fraudulent appropriation is concealed by an elaborate series of plausible devices. Finally the sum becomes too large to be covered up any longer, the man is detected, the ingenuity of his crime becomes the theme of all tongues, a settlement of the loss is compounded with the directors, and the offender slips through the clutches of justice. That is defalcation.

A commission merchant receives from a chance customer a consignment of goods, which he is instructed to sell. This he does, but instead of accounting to his principal for the proceeds, he converts them to his own uses. That is breach of trust.

A fiduciary officer of government defrauds the public by appropriating to his personal use, advantage, benefit and behoof the money or goods intrusted to his care for management or disbursement, and ultimately finds himself unable to replace what he has squandered. That is peculation.

A dishonest clerk has custody of his employer's property, and abstracts from the shelves of the store a portion of the merchandise, which he applies to his individual uses, without accounting for it in any manner, thereby subjecting himself to penalties specified in statutory law. That is embezzlement.

An unscrupulous horse jockey sells to an unsuspecting farmer an animal represented to be perfectly sound, which, in a few weeks, dies of glanders on the purchaser's hands. That is swindling.

A needy individual, with less honesty than strategy, runs his shaky bills at some store on the faith of owning certain landed property, the title thereof being "the baseless fabric of a vision." That is obtaining goods under false pretenses.

A lady of wealth has very confused notions of *meum* and *tuum*, and possesses an unconquerable craving to pocket-handkerchiefs, gloves, laces, and other valuable articles which commend themselves to her fancy when she goes shopping, but is utterly oblivious to the duty of paying for those appropriations. That is kleptomania.

A mother who is a widow, steeped in poverty and squalid wretchedness, abstracts a tempting loaf from a baker's counter to feed her starving children. That is stealing, pure and simple.

These several offences may go by different names, but they stand together on common ground on the fraudulent appropriation of another's property. The meanest act has the softest name; the least criminal the roughest. They illustrate the confused notions of right and wrong that prevail in the community, and hint broadly at the corruptions of society. Historians in the far future, rummaging among the musty records of our time, would find in these graded epithets for crime rich food for reflection, and ample evidence of an obscured moral sense among the people.

According to a cable dispatch contained in the COMMERCIAL of Friday, "the Suez canal is to pass into English hands." This statement may mean nothing more than that a part of M. LESSEPS'S scheme has been realized. Shortly before the beginning of the war, the great engineer spent some time in England for the purpose of interesting capitalists in a plan which he had formed for the completion and perfect utilization of the canal. With its present depth and width, it is not navigable for vessels of the largest draft, and ships of heavy burden are required to make the East Indian and China trade profitable. Hence in its present state the tolls of the canal would probably never suffice to maintain its expenses. It was evident almost from the first opening, that the expenses of the concern would be considerably larger than the original estimate. Even ROBERT STEPHENSON did not over-estimate the difficulty of resisting the sands of the desert. Large sums would may be kept open and pay profits to the stockholders, the work must be so widened and deepened as to enable it to admit vessels of all classes and thus make it a high way for the commerce of the East. M. LESSEPS'S scheme was to form an international company which should furnish the needful capital, and also to place the work under the protection of the great nations most interested in it, France, of course, having a chief place. According to another dispatch in yesterday's COMMERCIAL, BISMARCK is in favor of giving England the exclusive protectorate over the canal, thus securing her safe passage to India. In consideration of this concession Russia is to be allowed to do what she pleases with Turkey. This would be a settlement of the Eastern question without reference to France. As it is not likely that events have traveled so fast lately, the dispatch probably reports a suggestion, not a fact.

WASHINGTON correspondents have had a good deal to say lately concerning Mr. Senator SCHURZ'S reception at the White House on his return to the Capital. Contradictory statements on the subject have been published. According to one, the President flatly refused to see the Senator, on the ground of an interview. As it is not, at least cannot be justly pretended that there has been any personal quarrel or difficulty between the gentlemen, and as it is not pretended that the Missouri Senator has, since Congress adjourned, done anything which should deprive him of the social recognition to which his personal character and representative position entitle him, General GRANT'S friends are evidently interested in correcting so offensive a misstatement. The fact seems to be that when the Senator called at the White House, the President was engaged with a Committee of deputation of some kind, while some Quaker gentlemen having been already announced were waiting for an interview. Instead of receiving Mr. SCHURZ, the President received the Quakers, at the same time sending the Senator word, how busy he was compelled to be all day. The Senator not unnaturally, though perhaps illogically concluded that the President had not been longing for his presence in Washington and could possibly be happy in his absence for an indefinite period. Under the circumstances, it is certainly to be regretted that Mr. SCHURZ was not received at once and without the least display of pique or resentment. So much dissimulation even a Republican President may without evil consequences, learn from the Proverb, "Who knows not how to feign, knows not how to reign."

THAT the Republican party suffered in the late elections because of the errors into which designing men led the Administration, is not to be denied. The people are heartily in favor of kindness to the South, of economy and honesty in office, of reduction of taxes, and of a searching and comprehensive Civil Service Reform; and because many of them believed the politicians were leading the President away from these principles, they withheld their votes, or cast them against the Republican party. They were and still are Republicans, but could lay aside their manhood to support any wrong schemes or persons because "the party" had been deceived into indorsing them. These men of independent minds form the best element of Republican strength, and to retain them is to preserve the party, noble and conquering. It is pleasant to see, then, that the words of the Republican speakers and editors who have criticised the administration for any seeming deviation from the principles named, have not been without effect. It is stated, on good authority, that the President is about to inaugurate a more vigorous and acceptable political policy, in accordance with these views. If he shall do so, and shall "fight it out on that line," he will win to his most earnest support the thinking men of the Republican party, who will stand by him so long as he is for the right, whatever may be his fortune.

In the encyclical and bull lately prepared by the Pope, relative to the spoliation of the church by the Italian Government, the "greater excommunication" is pronounced against all those who "order, commit, aid, or in any way give countenance to the robbery." This instrument, so fearful in its import and purpose, and in former times so tremendous in its effects, having been printed at Geneva, was profusely posted up on the walls in Rome. A Roman newspaper which presumed to make the document the subject of comment and criticism, was at once seized by the authorities of the Italian Government. The fact is significant of several things. PIUS IX makes much ado on account of the persecutions which he is called to endure, but we do not hear of his resenting the activity thus shown in defense of his thunders. Think of a number of schoolboys who had just received a severe flogging, with the assurance of soon getting another, exerting themselves with the uttermost zeal to restore the fallen rod to the hand of their chastiser! Such conduct is, however, but a poor, imperfect illustration of the cool and accommodating spirit manifested by the Italian officials. The very men who have just received the "greater excommunication," go to much trouble and expense to publish the instrument, and then, of their own accord, proceed to punish an editor who treats its anathemas with disrespect. One can hardly help fancying that such evidence must satisfy even a Cardinal that the spiritual weapons of the church are completely divested of their terrors; that even the greater excommunication is regarded as a

> "Flam more senseless than the roguery
> Of old ursupiey and sogcry."

EARLY in the war, Professor GOLDWIN SMITH sent a considerable sum of money to the fund raising in Chicago for the relief of the German wounded. The donation, if we rightly remember, was accompanied with a letter expressing decided sympathy for the Germans in the struggle just begun. A few days ago, the Professor was asked by a lady for his autograph to be sent as a contribution to the *bazar national*, or great fair, by which the Franco-Americans are raising funds for their afflicted countrymen in France. Professor SMITH at once complied with the request by translating an ode of HORACE into English verse, the manuscript of which has been received with much gratification by the managers of the fair. One of them says, "An ode of HORACE translated *tout expres* by GOLDWIN SMITH, and written with his own hand, *voila* a delicate morsel for literary people or for dainty collectors! A purchaser already offers twenty-five dollars for it, but that is nothing, and we fully expect other bidders. In Europe such a chance would be disputed by hundreds," &c. Undoubtedly the curiosity is skillfully recommended to the American public. We may fancy that many who may know Professor SMITH only through the caricature of him in Lothair, would eagerly put in bids for the treasure. Collectors of autographs are not always particular about the kind of fame which gives value to their precious things. But GOLDWIN SMITH'S performances in literature and in politics, may make his handwriting an object of interest fifty or even a hundred years hence to another sort of people than ordinary collectors.

A MAN with a bad memory is not a singular object; but a man in public life, and an actor in stirring scenes, who cannot tell whether or not he wrote a letter that would make a column in this paper, expressing bitter contempt of the Lieutenant General of the army, asserting his lack of confidence in his ability and honor, and indulging in the fiercest range of criticism of GRANT'S part in one of the most important events in the country's history—we say the man who was a conspicuous actor himself, and who cannot now tell whether or not he wrote such a letter, is an object something more than singular. The point is, a letter has just appeared purporting to have been written by Admiral PORTER in 1865, speaking in the most unfriendly and unjust terms of General GRANT, in close relations with whom PORTER was then serving. Whether or not PORTER wrote this letter PORTER cannot now remember. It purports to have been addressed to Mr. WELLES, the then Secretary of the Navy, and few acquainted with Admiral PORTER and his style will hesitate to say it is entirely characteristic. Mr. WELLES must be able to settle the question of authenticity. It is well known that since General GRANT came to the Presidency he has much confided in PORTER and bestowed remarkable honors on him—his nomination to be Admiral being before the Senate at the present moment. Taking the letter to be genuine—and PORTER don't deny it, only can't recollect it—either it has been explained to the President or he must be retained in the nomination to make PORTER Admiral.

IT is a fact curious enough to note, that the Revenue reformers and free-traders are sticklers for high duties on tea, coffee and sundry other necessaries consumed by the whole population, and from which between sixty and seventy millions are collected in duties every year. At the same time these reformers assert that Pennsylvania "pig iron men" demand "higher duties" and want to oppress the people with taxation. No such thing. "Pig iron men" want lower duties, and are for striking out of existence sixty or seventy millions collected from tea, coffee, spices, etc., none of which articles do we produce, and the free introduction of which would injure no interest. These articles enter into the cost of everything we make or grow. The abolition of the duties would cheapen them just so much and correspondingly diminish the cost of whatever we make and grow at home. If these "reformers" are in earnest here is a good place to commence. If we are to have free trade or anything approaching to it, why not come to it at once, just where it will confer substantial benefits on all who trade at even the meanest grocery store?

ON the continent of Europe the Free Masons are a terrible fraternity, if some of them tell the truth about themselves. The *Isopel*, the newspaper organ of the HUGOS, and also at present of LOUIS BLANC, all members of the mystical brotherhood, not long ago made the announcement that "Brother WILLIAM is henceforth an outlaw, and all Free Masons are authorized to at tack and inflict upon him the last penalty." Now, "Brother WILLIAM is the Prussian majesty. A correspondent of another Paris journal tells how, in the presence of a Free Mason, he derisively declared his scepticism as to the execution of the sentence, when the brother said, with much solemnity, "Sir, do not laugh! Condemnation by the masonic tribunal is so terrible that BONAPARTE undertook the Italian war merely to deliver himself from the excommunication pronounced by the lodges of Naples and Milan. PIANORI and ORSINI *were Free Masons*." As for King WILLIAM, he is commonly supposed to be in more danger from the free-shooters than from the Free Masons.

AMONG the most practically important matters that will come before the next Legislature, is the work of the Code Commissioners, Hons. WILLIAM M. HALL of Bedford and DAVID DERRICKSON of Meadville, who have faithfully and well (so far as we are able to judge) about completed their duty. They will report to the Legislature as a whole, and we hope the statutes as revised will be adopted as a whole, leaving future Legislatures to modify or change, where experience demonstrates a necessity. In 1867 the Governor appointed the gentlemen above named, under a resolution of the Legislature authorizing him to do so, and also Mr. WAYNE MCVEIGH, a son-in-law of Mr. Senator CAMERON. Mr. MCVEIGH then lived in West Chester. He accepted the position—retained it for over a year, drew a year's salary from the Governor under the pretense that he was doing his share of the work, and then resigned without leaving any evidence that he ever did one thing. His share had thus to be allotted to the other two, and, with their own work, it is understood, it is about completed.

EIGHT railway managers have been in secret session in New York for several days, attempting to divide the spoils they expect to reap from the public by the recent increase in freight rates. How mighty are the interests controlled by this handful of men appears from the statement that the railroad companies in convention represent in the aggregate a capital of about $725,000,000, and their annual revenue is larger than that of the United States government was up to the late civil war. Yet this is only one-third of the railroad capital of the nation, and we are told that this interest is only at the beginning of its development. If combination has got so far as to manipulate one-third of this interest, how long will it be before it will regulate the rates of all the railroads in the country? The interposition of Congress is already invoked in many quarters; and the decided tendency is to remedies of this nature; but there is great danger that when it comes to this the enemy will be found intrenched in the capital.

THE anti-tariff enthusiasts make one serious mistake in all their calculations by claiming every Democrat as on their side. We are willing that they shall lull themselves into confidence by this false belief, but cannot forbear from warning them that if ever the protection question comes to a direct issue before the people they will be awakened from their error by overwhelming defeat. The following letter from J. G. SUTHERLAND, just elected as a *Democrat* to Congress from the Sixth Michigan District, written during the late campaign, is in point:

> "There is no issue between the political parties in respect to *tariff* or *free trade*. Considering the diverse local interests of the country, it is difficult to conceive how any national party can exist which is pledged to either. In this Congressional District no party opposed to tariff can ever hope to succeed, nor ought such a party to succeed. It is a manufacturing and his friends claim that it was intentional district; those such manufacturing interests, and yields such productions for manufacture, as can be no doubt that all parties should, and at length will, concur in as being for the most liberal protection by high duties on competitory imports. I shall consider it my duty, if elected, to do all I can to procure such protection. Democrats here ought not, and I am persuaded will not, require any policy to be pursued which is inimical to our peculiar local interests."

THE people of St. Louis are beginning to appreciate the value of the Ohio river as a highway of trade. It is stated that there are now over $400,000 in capital, belonging to St. Louis merchants, tied up and useless, because of the closing of the canal at Louisville. The Iron Mountain company alone have nearly $375,000 worth of ore which they cannot get to its proper market on the Ohio. It has also been demonstrated by the high price of coal at all points below Cairo, that Pittsburgh alone is able to supply the demand for this commodity, notwithstanding all the pretensions to the contrary. The scarcity of coal below has added materially to the cost of transportation, and thus another strong argument is furnished in favor of the uninterrupted navigation of the Ohio. We are glad to know that St. Louis merchants place a proper estimate upon the value of this great highway, because their aid and co-operation will be required in protecting it from obstructions.

THE report of the State Treasurer for the month of November, published herewith, shows that from May, 1869, to the 30th November, 1870, General IRWIN has redeemed State bonds and reduced the State debt to the extent of $1,521,666 16. In the corresponding period, Mr. MACKEY paid $308,179 23. The improvement of our State credit is seen in the fact, that while Treasurer MACKEY paid three per cent. premium, Gen. IRWIN has redeemed $1,500,000 at par, making a saving of $30,000. These are some of the results of the reforms in the law regulating the Treasury Department, for which the COMMERCIAL fought earnestly and long, and of the management of an officer fully in sympathy with them. With such results before them we apprehend that there is no danger that either the people or their representatives will take a step backward.

THE Philadelphia *Press* treats constitutional reform as a foregone conclusion, and sums up as follows as to the kind of men who should compose the convention.

> "*First*, A body of strongly representative men, reflecting the best intelligence and thought of the commonwealth.
>
> "*Second*, Unembroiled by any political clique or set of interests; and
>
> "*Third*, Free to follow the dictates of their own judgment when that judgment shall have been determined by full and free discussion."

This is sound, but not specially with reference to a Constitutional Convention. The rule applies equally to Legislative and all representative bodies, and to political action in general. Were it put in practice the necessity for reform would be less frequent and urgent. It is through disregard of it that evils come into existence, which, as at the present time, render reforms equally imperative and difficult.

NEW stories about the coalition between low tariff Republicans and the Democrats, to control the legislation of Congress, are given to-day. These rumors are repeated with such persistence, and, as in the present instance, with such particularity, that it will not do to overlook them, or to deride their significance. But while we read these things, we wonder why the friends of the American manufacturing interest are not awake to their peril, so that they may equal their rivals in vigilance and activity, why are they delaying to organize effectually in behalf of the thousands of workmen and of farmers, whom a reduction of the tariff will deprive of a market for their labor and their products?

THERE is sound sense in the views that purport to come from the Cabinet officers upon the question of government clerks and their pay. All accounts agree that with many faithful clerks employed in the Washington offices have hard struggles "to make both ends meet," there are scores of their companions who are more active in drawing their pay and spending it than in anything else. It would be but simple justice to take the money wasted upon these faithless ones and apportion it among those who now do most of the work and can do it all, without excessive toil. No increased expense need be incurred; indeed money will probably be saved.

CONCERNING Governor HOFFMAN as a Presidential candidate, the New York *Times* says: "What we have before us today is the fact that HOFFMAN, with TWEED and SWEENY as his managers, is the man fixed upon as the next President by the Democracy. Talk about other candidates is mere rumor, and the Tammany leaders treat it with undisguised contempt." It is furthermore to be added, that HOFFMAN is the candidate as well as the instrument of the JIM FISK order of conspirators against the public welfare, and the United States would be subservient to the bad influences which all good men so much deplore.

IN 1860 Pennsylvania had 2,906,215 population; an unofficial report from the Interior Department gives us about 3,885,000 population in 1870. This increase of 978,785 is absolutely greater than that of any other State, the gain in Illinois being but 828,264, and in Missouri only 521,000. This gratifying result will astonish even Pennsylvanians themselves, who know something of the good that our manufacturing interests were quietly doing for our Commonwealth. Another decade of prosperous manufacturing will accomplish wonders, and should put us ahead of New York in numbers and wealth.

THE Apaches and some other Indian tribes of New Mexico refuse to be come quiet, even with the most zealous efforts of the peace commissioners to that end, and the Government, it is announced, is about to try what good military treatment will do them. This is no more than right, for while it is best to make what we can of the Indians by a conciliatory policy, it will not do to have the United States will not inflict sharp and severe punishment if they persist in violating their treaties and in outraging the whites.

HON. D. J. MORRELL.

From a private letter written by this gentleman we learn that he declines to contest for the seat in Congress which has been awarded to his Democratic opponent, Mr. Speer. He says: "My hunting up the scattered fraudulent votes, over one hundred of which have been reported to me, I could doubtless make a successful contest, but being fully satisfied that my defeat—indeed anything short of 1,200 majority in the district—is due to the base treachery and debauchery of professed Republicans, I should spurn to hold the seat at the cost of gathering up the petty frauds of opponents. You are aware how much I have wished to get out of public life, and how much my own interests, and the interests of the Cambria Company, demand it, and cannot blame me for accepting the present opportunity of doing so."

THE Oil City, *Register* has been informed by a well known gentleman of scientific attainments that the great lumber regions in the western part of this State are underlaid by rich mineral deposits. Lately some parties have been boring for the purpose of testing various portions of the lumber region. At the depth of a few hundred feet a superior quality of iron ore, equal to the Lake Superior, yielding seventy per cent. of pure ore has been found. The vein, as far as tested, is said to be thirty feet in thickness. The testing operations are being prosecuted at the present time, and by spring the results will be fully known. If this discovery is as satisfactory as indicated by the explorers, a new era of prosperity for Western Pennsylvania will be speedily inaugurated.

IT is well known that the Internal Revenue Bureau has taken an appeal to the United States Supreme Court in the case against the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad for refusing to pay tax on their dividend declared payable in 1870. When the docket is called in the Supreme Court to-morrow, the Solicitor General will ask that this case, involving $6,00,000 due to the United States if the Bureau shall be sustained, be taken up at once.

THE Washington correspondent of the Cincinnati *Commercial* telegraphs some "authentic facts" in connection with